



Jayne Kirkpatrick, Director, Public Affairs
Prepared by: John Boyette, Public Affairs Specialist

For more information: Belva Parker, Program Coordinator, Arts Commission, 996-3610

Aug. 17, 2009

ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:



The City of Raleigh Arts Commission is starting the Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Program. The program will offer scholarships to high school seniors pursuing full-time higher educational study in the fields of dance, theatre and musical theatre, literature, music or visual arts. The scholarships will be funded solely through individual and business contributions.

The Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Program is led by Honorary Chair Tift Merritt, a Raleigh-born musician and songwriter, and Raleigh Arts Commission member Jim Baldwin.

“The Artist of Tomorrow program holds a very special place in my heart as an artist...” said Ms. Merritt. “I always imagine what Nina Simone, as a third grader in a Troy, North Carolina, classroom might have needed. Investing in our future artists is investing in our future community.”

High school seniors interested in applying for an Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship must complete an application available on the City of Raleigh’s website at www.raleighnc.gov/arts. Scholarships will be paid directly to an accredited post-secondary institution, and may be used to pay for student expenses, including tuition, fees, books, or room and board.

“I am thrilled to be working with the Raleigh Arts Commission’s Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Committee,” said Elizabeth Grimes-Droessler, senior administrator of Arts Education for the Wake County Public School System. “The Arts Commission must be commended for developing this wonderful new program that will help support and inspire a new generation of artists.”

Local music and art stores will be raising funds for the scholarship program in the month of September through participation in a “Dollar for Arts” campaign. Additionally, individuals interested in making a contribution may download a donation form at www.raleighnc.gov/arts.

For more information about the Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Program, contact the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at 996-3610.

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission, established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

#